(c) The number of persons working in the mill, powerloom and handloom sectors are estimated at 1.04 million, 4.1 million and 12.4 million respectively.

STATEMENT

Production of cloth in different Sectors

(Million Sq. Mtrs.)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000(A)
Mill Sector	1948	1785	1587
Handloom Sector	7604	6792	6887
Powerloom Sector	20951	20690	22791

Note :

(A)—Anticipated

Diluting the Jute Packaging Order

2901. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :
SHRI GAYA SINGH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a)whether it is a fact that Government have recently diluted the mandatory jute packaging order; and

(b)if so, the details and reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

In view of the start of an indefinite strike in Jute Mills in West Bengal w.e.f. 22-3-2000 and in order to meet the requirement of packaging of essential items namely. Foodgrains, Sugar and Urea, the Government of India considered it necessary to provide relaxation in the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 and hence amended its earlier Notification dated 1-7-1999 vide Gazette Notification No. SO. 327(E) dated 31-3-2000 for the following commodities to be packed in Jute Bags :—

SI. No.	Commodities	% age of total production to be packed in jute packaging material as per Notification dated	
		01-07-1999 (valid upto 30-6-2000)	31-3-2000
	Foodgrains	100%	90%
	Sugar	100%	90%
	Fertilizer (Urea only)	20%	15%

Development of Textile Industry

†2902. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

DR. D. MASTHAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a)whether it is a fact that production of textiles has developed as a major-industry in the country during the past years;

(b)whether Government had allotted funds as financial aid and subsidy during the financial years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 for carrying out research for the development and expansion of this industry; and

(c) if so the details of the said amount year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c) Research and Development in the textiles sector is carried out mainly by the Textile Research Associations, which are given grants by the Govt. In the silk sector research and development is done mainly by the Central Silk Board (CSB). The amount released to the Associations and the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, in the financial years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is given in the statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.